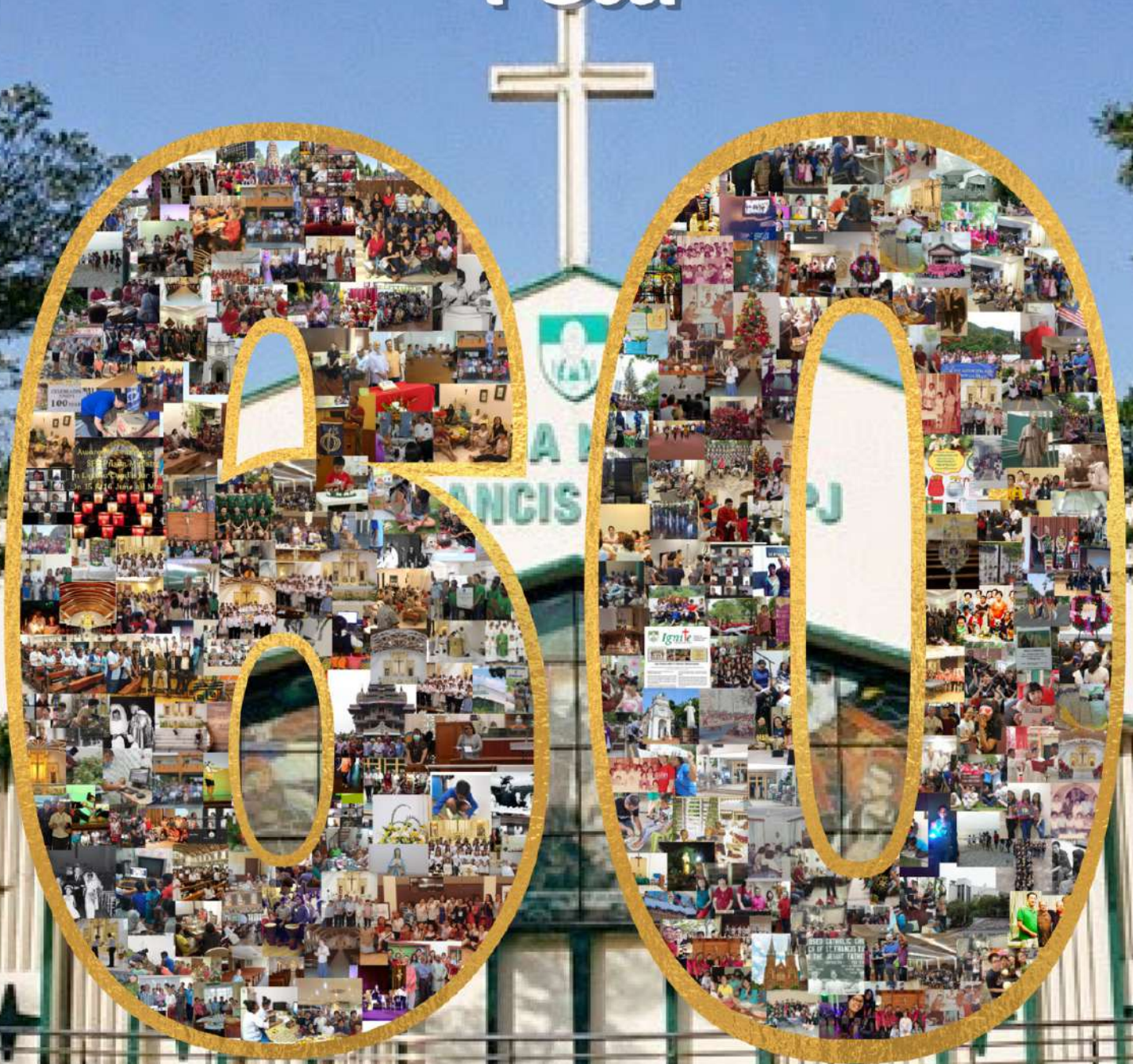


Diamond Jubilee Year



1961 - 2021



Saint Francis Xavier Church's Parish Crest

The parish crest is made up of two distinct images inspired by the founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius of Loyola, a Basque from Spain. The first is an image of two wolves carrying a cauldron while the second is the IHS monogram with the cross and nails.

IHS are the first three letters “iota”, “eta” and “sigma” of the Greek spelling for Jesus. The name of Jesus – in its traditional monogram IHS – was chosen by St Ignatius to be the seal stamped on documents. This was also used by all members of the Society as an outward sign of the inner consecration of everything they did “in the name of Jesus.” The cross and nails are traditional Christian signs, associated with the crucifixion of Jesus. Just as St Ignatius was called to be a companion of Jesus under the standard of the cross, every Christian, the parish community and the Church are also called to be companions.

Green is the colour of nature and of new life. As the traditional church colour for hope, it signifies a parish community ever renewing itself on its journey to becoming a truly welcoming church in the name of Jesus.



Ignatius Soo



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Editorial Message from Parish Priest

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If you would like to contribute an article or post an event, kindly email to socialcomms@sfx.com.my.

For the latest information and event updates, please check www.sfx.com.my, www.facebook.com/sfxpj/ or Instagram @sfxpj.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace of Christ be with you!

Anniversary celebrations make us think of the past, the present, and the future. We remember the past with gratitude especially for all that we have been given at SFX. God is powerfully present in our gratitude. We started as a small church 60 years ago and have since transformed both physically and hopefully, spiritually. Over the years, we have had some great priests as well as lay men and women who have sacrificed and contributed to the building up of this parish. Indeed, it has been a long and fruitful journey.

Our primary challenge is the unprecedented and ongoing pandemic situation in which we find ourselves. To stay safe, we need to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing. Pope Francis has advised that it is an ethical obligation to take the Covid-19 vaccine.

Of course, it is sad to see the Church empty especially on Sundays. It is not only the Church that is suffering, but the whole world has been affected. Many people have lost their jobs. We need to be patient and at the same time adapt to new ways of doing things online.

Going forward, we will be focusing on four pillars at SFX, namely Ignatian spirituality, the poor, the youth and care for creation. These four pillars are known as the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP). Ignatian spirituality is a means of reaching God. The Church has always had a preferential option for the poor and we need to do more. The youth, being the future of our church, also need constant faith formation and guidance especially during this difficult period. And finally, the care for creation has become a salient concern of contemporary times. We need all of you to be committed to these four key areas.

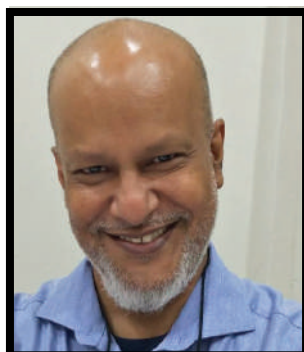
Let us be grateful for the past, be patient with the present, and finally be zealous in building up the future of our beloved SFX.

Happy Anniversary everyone!

Fr Norris Seenivasan, SJ

Parish Priest

Church of St Francis Xavier, Petaling Jaya



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Looking Back Through the Years

I have been attending SFX Church ever since I can remember. My parents were married here and I was also baptised in this church. At that time, my grandparents lived in Section 5, Petaling Jaya. They were devout Catholics who went to church every Sunday, gathered round for family prayers and faithfully recited the rosary every night. They also made sure their eight children attend Mass regularly. As years passed, the children grew up, settled down and had children of their own. In turn, they too got married and started families of their own. Those of us who currently reside in Kuala Lumpur, still attend SFX Church till today.



The Wonder Years

I have watched the gradual transformation of this beautiful church over the years—both physically and spiritually. It is heartening to see how our small congregation has grown too. Within the last 60 years, our church has undergone quite a few renovations to meet the growing needs of the parish. I remember when the air brick walls of the church were replaced with open steel grilles. Parishioners sitting outside could then participate fully at Mass. By the 80s and 90s, an annexe was built to provide additional space for meeting rooms, a parish office, a chapel as well as multi-purpose halls for seminars and events. Later on, the church became fully air-conditioned. The wings at both sides of our church were also extended to accommodate more parishioners.

Major changes were also made inside the church. Impressive stained glass panels with religious imagery majestically adorned the upper walls of the church. The architecture of our Church was designed to recreate and replicate the beauty of the churches of the 12th and 13th centuries, inspired by Neo-Gothic and Neo-Classical styles with a hint of Baroque. The SFX's barrel-vaulted roof of the church with the decorative fleur de lis is yet another distinct feature of the Gothic style in architecture.



A Growing Parish Community

Looking back at the past 60 years of our church history reminds us how much has been accomplished. We are grateful to those who have devoted their time and resources to building up and modernising the Church.

As we move forward, let us all continue on our spiritual journey together to deepen our faith and commitment to our parish. We may not know everything and cannot do everything perfectly. We can, however, open our hearts and minds to discern God's calling and invitation for each one of us as members of this parish community.

Diamond Jubilee Year Celebration

February 2, 2021 marked the 60th Anniversary of our Church. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate this important milestone together as a community. Perhaps we could take this time to pause, ponder and recalibrate our lives.

As we look back and reflect, we cannot but be thankful for all the blessings and graces that the Lord has shown us especially with the gift of this beautiful church to nourish our spiritual life and to bring us together as one body in Christ.

There will always be another time for joyous celebration!

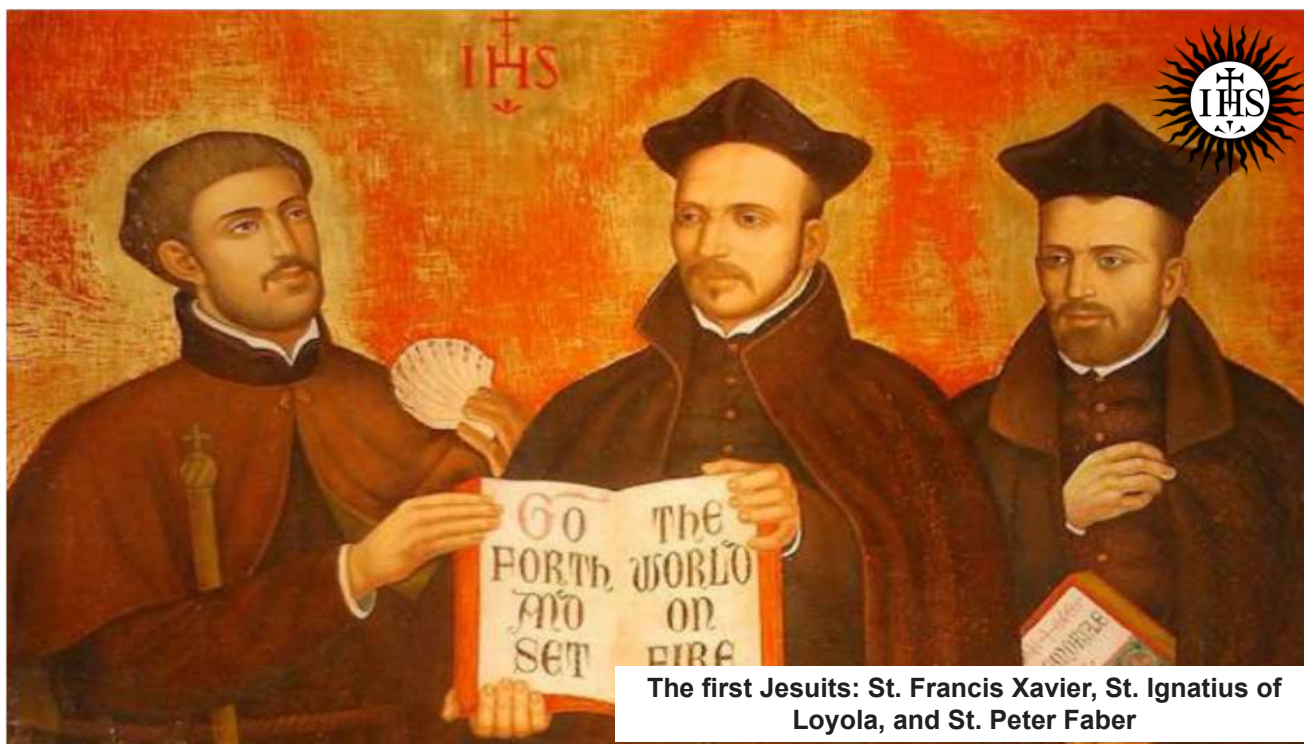
Happy 60th Anniversary, SFX!



Cordelia Lee

SFX Social Communications Ministry

Who Are the Jesuits?



The first Jesuits: St. Francis Xavier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. Peter Faber

The Society of Jesus is a religious order of the Catholic Church headquartered in Rome. It was founded by Ignatius of Loyola and six companions with the approval of Pope Paul III in 1540. The members are called Jesuits. The society is engaged in evangelization and apostolic ministry in 112 nations.

In Asia Pacific, the Jesuits run schools, universities and parishes and engage in missionary work, direct evangelisation to the poor, social justice, inter-religious dialogue, and other 'frontier' ministries. Most importantly, they continue the tradition of providing retreats based on the Spiritual Exercises, the foundational work of St Ignatius.

Birth of Society of Jesus

During the 1530s, St. Ignatius of Loyola began writing about the emotions that he experienced in everyday life — feelings of gratitude or anguish, consolation or sadness. Those meditations eventually became his Spiritual Exercises, first published in 1548.

Eight years earlier, in 1540, St. Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus with the approval of Pope Paul III. Ignatius had gathered around him an energetic band of well-educated men, including Saint Francis Xavier, who desired nothing more than to help others find

God in their lives. It was Ignatius' original plan that the Jesuits be travelling missionaries who would preach and administer the sacraments wherever there was the hope of accomplishing the greater good. Since its foundation, the Order has grown from the original ten to more than 16,000 Jesuits worldwide.

From the beginning, the Society served the Church in Europe as well as in Asia, Africa and the Americas. Men like Robert Bellarmine and Peter Canisius spearheaded the Catholic Reformation in Europe.

Focus on Education

It became clear to Ignatius that schools offered the greatest possible service to the church, by moral and religious instruction, by making devotional life accessible to the young and teaching the Gospel message of service to others. Thus, many schools were started.

The Jesuits also became deeply involved in science and exploration. By 1750, Jesuit astronomers ran 30 of the world's 130 astronomical observatories. Up to 35 lunar craters were named in honour of Jesuit scientists. The "Gregorian" Calendar was the work of the Jesuit Christopher Clavius, the "most influential teacher of the Renaissance".

Feature

Story of St Ignatius of Loyola



St. Ignatius came from a family of minor nobility in Spain's northern Basque region. In his early years, he had dreams of personal honour and fame.

All that began to change one day in the spring of 1521. Ignatius was 30 years old at the time and was a knight at the Spanish Royal Court. While fighting in a battle against the French, he was struck by a cannonball in the leg. During a difficult recovery in his family's house, Ignatius asked for books about chivalry. But nothing was available. He had to settle for a book about the life of Christ and biographies of the saints. He found these unexpectedly riveting.

St. Ignatius had always dreamed of imitating heroic deeds, but now, the heroes had names like Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Siena. Ignatius also noticed something extraordinary happening to him. God, he realized, was working within him — prompting, guiding, inviting. In later years, as he travelled far and wide, he realized too that God was similarly at work in the lives of all people, in the everyday events of the world.

Suppression of the Society

Jesuits were called the schoolmasters of Europe during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, not only because of their network of schools but also for their pre-eminence as scholars, scientists and for the thousands of textbooks they composed. The Jesuits were involved in managing over 740 schools.

Suddenly, all these were lost in 1773. Pope Clement XIV, yielding to pressure from the Bourbon courts, issued his brief *Dominus ac Redemptor* suppressing the Society of Jesus. This religious Society of 23,000 men dedicated to the service of the church was disbanded. The Pope promulgated the brief of

suppression in an unusual manner, which caused perplexing canonical difficulties. However, Catherine, Empress of Russia, rejected the brief outright and forbade its promulgation, ensuring 200 Jesuits continued to function in Russia.

Restoration of the Society

Pope Pius VII restored the Society in 1814, forty-one years after the Suppression. Although many of the men had died by then, the memory of their educational work had not, and the new Society was flooded with requests to take over new colleges. In France alone, about 86 schools were offered to the Jesuits.

Since 1814, the Society experienced growth and had since then surpassed the apostolic breadth of the early Society in its educational, intellectual, pastoral and missionary endeavours. There are Jesuit parish priests, chaplains, educators, doctors, lawyers, astronomers, playwrights, and scientists.

Members of the Society of Jesus today are expected to accept orders to go anywhere in the world.

Jesuits are thus, sometimes, referred to colloquially as “**God’s soldiers**”, which evolved from references to Ignatius’ history as a soldier and the society’s commitment to accepting orders anywhere and enduring any conditions. The society participated in the Counter-Reformation and later, in the implementation of the Second Vatican Council.

Jesuits Organisation Worldwide



Madonna Della Strada — the Italian for Our Lady of the Wayside — is the name of an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, enshrined at the Church of the Gesù in Rome, mother church of the Society of Jesus.

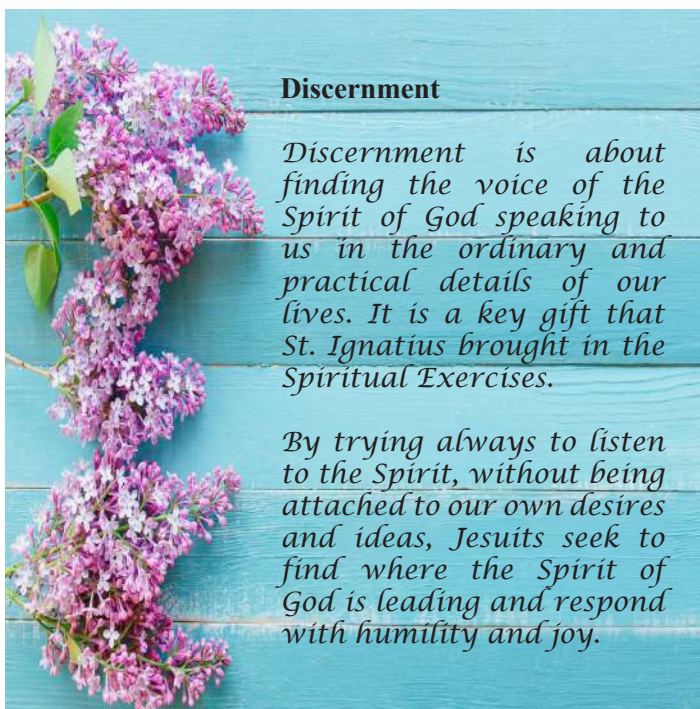
Feature

The 16,000-plus Jesuits worldwide come from 112 countries and belong to approximately 80 provinces and regions.

Jesuit communities and apostolic works are organised by “provinces” and “regions” that belong to six Conferences around the world. The Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific covers Jesuit life and service in Asia and the Pacific, which comprises seven provinces, three regions and two missions. The seven provinces are Australia, Chinese (China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam. The three Jesuit regions are Malaysia-Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste, while Cambodia and Myanmar are mission territories.

The **Malaysia-Singapore Region of the Society of Jesus** was officially instituted on 16 April, 1985. The Jesuits set up new communities and worked in various ministries in the Malacca-Johor diocese like starting the Arrupe House in Masai, Johor. In 2012, the region also started Bellarmine House in Sarawak. Jesuits also administer and offer pastoral care for staff and students at St. Joseph’s Family of Schools in Kuching. Fr Christopher Soh, SJ is Regional Superior of the Malaysia-Singapore Jesuit Region (MAS).

The goal of the Jesuit mission is to be ever available for the greater universal good, desiring always the “magis”, that which is truly better *“For the Greater Glory of God.”* It is this availability for the Church’s universal mission that marks the Society of Jesus as an apostolic religious order.



Discernment

Discernment is about finding the voice of the Spirit of God speaking to us in the ordinary and practical details of our lives. It is a key gift that St. Ignatius brought in the Spiritual Exercises.

By trying always to listen to the Spirit, without being attached to our own desires and ideas, Jesuits seek to find where the Spirit of God is leading and respond with humility and joy.

Finding God in All Things.

Ignatius of Loyola



The mission of Saint Ignatius and his companions was born in personal experience of God. Ignatian spirituality is grounded in the conviction that God is active in our world. The spiritual path laid out by Ignatius helps us discern God’s presence, to find God in all things, reaching out to a diverse, grace filled yet imperfect world.

Arrival of Jesuits in Malaysia

The first Jesuit to arrive in Malaya was Saint Francis Xavier in 1545 to Malacca. Xavier opened new ways of access in his mission to bring the Gospel to the world and is regarded as the founder of the Jesuit mission in Asia. He subsequently sent Fr Francisco Perez and Br Roque de Oliveira to start a community and school. After Malacca fell to the Dutch in 1641, the Jesuits were expelled.



The society only returned to Malaya in mid-20th century with the arrival of two French Jesuits —Fr Andrew Joilet and Fr Monsterleet. Fr Andrew started working in Singapore before moving north to Malaya (Kota Bahru) while Fr Monsterleet stayed back and was involved in catechetical work in Singapore. Soon other Jesuit priests from North America, Fr James Kearney, Fr Berube and Fr Eugene Audet arrived. In 1951, Fr Patrick Joy was appointed superior of the Jesuits in Malaya.

Feature

By 1955, Bishop Dominic Vendargon of the newly erected diocese of Kuala Lumpur initiated the planning and construction of a church and youth centre in Kuala Lumpur. Fr. Paddy Joy came up from Singapore and applied to the authorities in Petaling Jaya for land and construction. The Church of St. Francis Xavier in Petaling Jaya was officially opened on 2 February 1961. The youth centre, Xavier Hall was completed in May 1961.

Fr Geoffrey Murphy was its first parish priest while Fr Brian Kelly assumed the role of warden of the centre.



**Church of St Francis Xavier
Petaling Jaya, 1961**

Source:

1. www.jesuits.global/about-us/our-history/
2. <https://mas-jesuits.org/>



DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that SFX PJ Church is one of two churches in Malaysia where the sacred relics of Saint Francis Xavier are kept? A reliquary containing a bone fragment belonging to our church's patron saint is kept in the church sacristy, and only brought out once every year for veneration during the Feast Day on 3 December.

The other is St Francis Xavier Church Melaka which holds two reliquaries containing a piece of skin taken from the foot and a fragment of finger bone. The body of Saint Francis Xavier is enshrined at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Goa, India while his right arm is kept at the Church of the Gesu, Rome.



DID YOU KNOW...

SFX PJ's first parish priest, **Fr Geoffrey Murphy, SJ** was born in 1922 in Bray within the County of Wicklow in Ireland. He was ordained as a priest on 29 July 1954 and came to Kuala Lumpur in 1958. With the help of Fr Paddy McGovern, SJ and Fr Edward Bourke, SJ, he built the Church of Saint Francis Xavier and Xavier Hall.

Fr Murphy was the first Jesuit novice master in Malaysia. He was known for his good humour, immense patience and his ability to listen endlessly to anyone in trouble. His trademark phrase "Sure, sure. Sure, sure!" was fondly remembered by parishioners. Fr Murphy was called home to be with the Lord in 1985.



Feature

Bringing Hope to the Poor



Joseph Er started the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) in SFX in 1969 at the request of Fr Eddie Bourke. He helmed the Society for 8 years. During the early years, there was a twinning arrangement with SSVP Australia where the latter, being a more affluent conference, agreed to extend support to SSVP SFX.

Provisions of milk and cheese supplies were received periodically from Australia and distributed to the poor among whom were those living in plantation estates (such as Effingham estate) and along the then railway track along Old Klang Road.

Joseph Er also started the mini feeding program for poor students where he and his team members would go to selected schools to

identify needy students with the help of the headmaster. Milk and biscuits were distributed to these students during recess time.

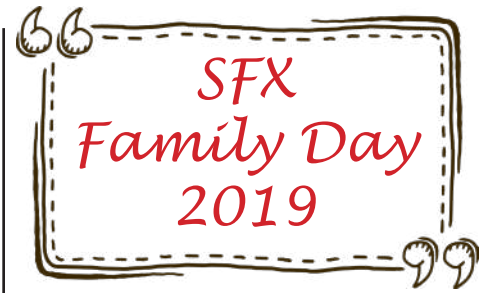
In the later years, Joseph was also actively involved in the development of SFX including heading the columbarium project



Blessing of the new columbarium

Although he is no longer an active member of SSVP due to failing health, Joseph still keeps in touch with the works of the society.

When SSVP embarked on the construction of its permanent Boys Home, Rumah Pengajian Xavier, Joseph was one of the first to assist financially by contributing RM150,000 to kickstart the project.



Fr Norris officiating Family Day



BECs and Parish Ministries celebrating SFX Family Day

First Holy Communion

Our children of Hope & Love Class 2020 had their First Holy Communion in 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, their families and loved ones witnessed and celebrated this wonderful occasion via live streaming.

The children expressed their thoughts and feelings in receiving the Sacrament through art and prayer.



A Former Parishioner Recalls Fond Memories of SFX PJ

By Dominic Michael Amaloo, a 75 year- old former parishioner who now resides in Italy



Elizabeth Anna Theresa and Robert E. Fleury

Our family moved to Section 11 Petaling Jaya in 1960. My siblings remember seeing the construction of St. Francis Xavier's Church. In fact, my family house was located within walking distance on Jalan 11/4, on the opposite side of the highway beside the Church and near the University Hospital. My elder siblings, now in their 80s and one aged 91 must have attended the first Holy Mass in February 1961.

I still remember vividly the Church had a simple big cross on the altar. There was also a basement where wedding receptions were held. At that time, most of the parishioners were from the neighbourhood.

The Parish Priest then was Father Edmund Sullivan, SJ. My brother Lawrence and I, were altar boys at the Church. He was 14 years while I was 15. We had to learn the responses in Latin in reply to the priest's prayers during Mass. At that time, all Masses worldwide were conducted entirely in Latin. Lawrence attended Form 1 at the very first Catholic La Salle School in Petaling Jaya in 1959. It was first organised at the basement of a building adjacent to the Church which was still under construction. That (school) building was later converted into a place for retreats. It was also used as the residence quarters for the Jesuit priests.

My sister, Elizabeth Anna Theresa, got married in St. Francis Xavier's Church on 14 August 1965 to American Peace Corps volunteer Robert E. Fleury. Elizabeth and her husband later emigrated to USA. My brother went to Sweden in the late 60s; while I emigrated to Italy in 1972.

Three of my siblings and I, together with Elizabeth and her husband Robert returned to Malaysia in 1995. We visited SFX for their 30th wedding anniversary. In 2020, they both passed away. Looking at recent pictures, the church had certainly improved tremendously in the interior.

I convey my best wishes to St. Francis Xavier's Church on its 60th Diamond Jubilee and for all its future endeavours!



The bridal couple leaving the altar after the Mass



The wedding reception held in the open basement of the church



My brother Lawrence is (altar boy) standing next to the priest



The couple's invitation card to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary.



Through The Years: SFX Parish Community Reminisce Over Prayer & Fellowship



BEC 17A commemorates 60 years of SFX in Thanksgiving Prayers

SFX is 60 years old this year. Due to the MCO, we were unable to celebrate with any actual events in church.

However, our 17A BEC managed to celebrate our church's milestone virtually on Thursday, 25th March 2021 where thanksgiving prayers & petitions were offered. We recited the Luminous Rosary to thank God, Mother Mary & St Joseph for SFX's 60 years.

Brief History of Zone 17A BEC

Through the initiative of our late Father Peter Kim SJ, the BECs in SFX Parish were formed in 1980.

As Section 17 covers a big area, it was divided into 3 main groups namely Section 17A BEC, Section 17B BEC and Section 17C BEC. Each BEC was headed by their own Chief Coordinator. As for Section 17A BEC, the first Chief Coordinator was Doris Scott who held the post for 2 years from 1980 to 1981.

In 1982, Fr Peter Kim decided to name our BEC as Zone 17A BEC & subdivided the Zone to 3 BECs:

- St Mark BEC
- St. Luke BEC
- St. Jude BEC

Each BEC was headed by a Chief Coordinator and assisted by their own Core team, respectively. Among the 3 Chief Coordinators, one of them was selected to represent as Zone 17A Chief.

Later, St Mark BEC, due to the dwindling number of members resulting from many families who have shifted or migrated, was merged with St. Luke BEC. Currently, Zone 17A has only 2 BECs:

- St. Luke BEC with 46 families
- St. Jude BEC with 37 families



Line dancing by the ladies at Easter Party 2001

By Peter Tan

My experience of Single Adults Ministry (SAM), a parish ministry of SFX in the 90s during the time of Fr Raju, Fr Jojo, Fr Larry & Fr Simon Yong was fulfilling. It was a fun filled action group, where we had the opportunity to indulge in a variety of activities like group prayer sessions, retreats in Cameron Highlands, campfire at a retreat centre in Port Dickson, casual outings to Seremban and Malacca, weekly Sunday coffee mornings, simple social get-togethers for movie, chit chat, lunch or dinners after meeting sessions.



Christmas Party with our Parish Priest Father Raju in 1986



BEC trip to Bukit Tinggi in 2000



Celine with members from Single Adults Ministry at a retreat in Cameron Highlands in 1998

By Celine George

I started in the mid 80s as a lector and volunteer with Sunday School (teaching pre-school and then Form 4). I got roped into the Youth ministry by Fr Raju; later into Liturgy ministry and also Parish Council when Fr Larry was parish priest. I had the chance to attend many formation sessions. BEC life covered home Masses, rosaries in May and October, gatherings for Christmas and birthdays, as well as trips and makan sessions. In our BECs, we came together and supported each other in key life moments such as birthdays, weddings and deaths.

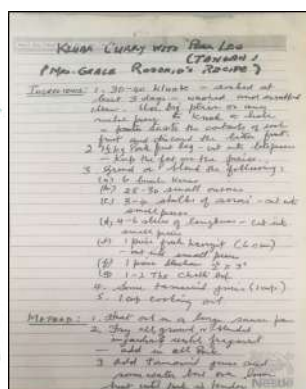
By Carolyn Choo

We hope and look forward to a time when we can freely meet each other and celebrate with prayers, fellowship & laughter!

Recipes



Old family recipes by Albert Rozario - SFX parishioner



Buah Keluak Curry with Pork Leg

Ingredients:

- 30-40 keluak nuts soaked for at least 3 days, washed and scrubbed clean. Crack open with the corner edge of a chopper's knife.
- 1 ½ pork fat leg, cut into cube pieces. Keep the fat on the pieces.

Rempah (Paste):

Ground and blend the following:

- 6 buah keras
- 25-30 small onions
- 3-4 stalks of serai – cut into small pieces
- 4-6 slices of galangal– cut into small pieces
- 1-piece fresh turmeric (6cm) – cut into small pieces
- 1 piece shrimp paste (belacan) 2" x 3"
- 1-2 tbs chilli powder
- 1 cup tamarind juice
- 1 cup cooking oil

Method:

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan.
2. Fry all ground and blended rempah until fragrant. Add in all the pork.
3. Add in buah keluak nuts when pork is 3/4 cooked.
4. Add tamarind juice and simmer until pork is tender and the keluak nuts are cooked.

In Loving Memory of Albert Rozario

"You said it yourself, loud but oh so gentle heart of a giant, witty, with a sharp sense of humour and warm hugs. Hardly ever without a smile. He would go to all ends to help, always a good friend and supportive mentor. He would always look for the good in people, but would not hesitate to discipline if necessary. He loved his family and friends and above all, wearing many hats all for the love of our Father in Heaven."

--BEC St Francis Assisi, Section 5, PJ



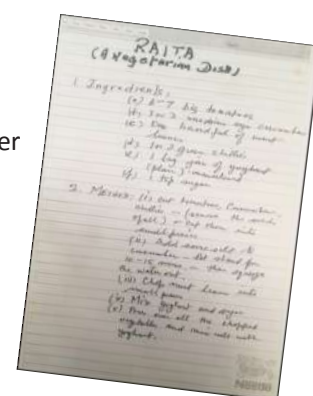
Raita (A Vegetarian Dish)

Ingredients:

- 6-7 big tomatoes
- 3 or 2 medium aged cucumber
- One handful of mint leaves
- 1 or 2 green chillies
- 1 big jar of plain yogurt (unsweetened)
- 1 tsp of sugar

Method:

1. Cut tomatoes, cucumber, and chillies (remove the seeds from the chillies) – cut them into small pieces.
2. Add some salt to the cucumber. Let it stand for 10-15 minutes, then remove the water.
3. Cut mint leaves into small pieces.
4. Mix yogurt and sugar.
5. Pour over all the chopped vegetable and mix well with yogurt.



* Photos for illustration purposes only

Recipes



“Bling-Bling” Curry with Beef (An Old Home Recipe)

Ingredients:

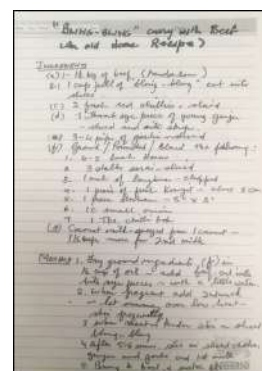
- 1- 1 ½ kg of beef (tenderloin)
- 1 cup full of “Bling-Bling” cut into pieces
- 2 fresh red chillies – sliced
- 1 thumb size piece of young ginger sliced into strips
- 3-4 cloves of garlic – sliced

Ground / pounded/ blend the following:

- 4 - 5 buah keras
- 3 stalks lemongrass– sliced
- 1 inch of galangal - chopped
- 1 piece of fresh turmeric – almost 5cm
- 1 piece of shrimp paste – 3” x 3”
- 10 small onions (shallots)
- Coconut milk (1st squeeze: 1 cup of water, 2nd squeeze: 1 1/2 cup of water)

Method:

1. Fry ground ingredients in ½ cup of oil – add beef cut into bite size pieces – with a little water .
2. When fragrant add 2nd coconut milk. Let it simmer over low heat – stir frequently.
3. When meat is tender, stir in sliced “Bling – Bling”.
4. After 5-6 minutes, stir in sliced chillies, ginger, garlic, and add 1st coconut milk.
5. Bring to a boil and turn off heat.



Parish Ministries



Altar Ladies Society

The Altar Ladies Society began as a small group of four members who used their creative and artistic talents to beautify the church sanctuary with exquisite floral decoration and arrangements. Through the years, the group has grown and now comprises 22 members. Working in groups of three, each group is rostered by the chief coordinator to serve once a month. The altar ladies gather together to design and create aesthetic flower arrangements befitting the mood and theme of the weekend Eucharist.



Parish Ministries

Berchman's Altar Servers Society

The Altar Boys Society of the Church of St. Francis Xavier was formed in 1960. Fr Lawrence Andrew was its first President with thirteen members. The society's name was changed to incorporate the name of its patron saint, St. John Berchmans in 1980 and was renamed Berchmans Altar Servers' Society (BASS).

The primary objective of BASS is to assist the priests at Mass and other services held at SFX church. It has over the years been inculcating religious and moral values and a strong sense of brotherhood among its members.

Today, BASS in SFX PJ has a total of 40 altar boys. Since 25 Nov 2019, permission has been granted for parishes in the KL Archdiocese to accept girls serving as altar servers.



Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality Ministers' primary duty is to welcome parishioners to the Church and make them feel at home.

They help with Mass collections, ensure smooth congregational flow during Holy Communion and direct traffic within the Church premises. The SFX Hospitality Ministry comprises wardens from the BECs and volunteers.



SFX Music Ministry

Music Ministry is dedicated to the "spirit of the liturgical action and that they foster the participation by all the faithful" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 116) in praise and worship.



Parish Ministries



Prayer Groups

St. Raphael's Companions

St Raphael's Companions is a pastoral group that offers friendship, support and spiritual help to those in the parish who have experienced death of a loved one.



Catholic Charismatic Renewal

SFX's Catholic Charismatic Renewal Group was founded in 1979 through an amalgamation of several prayer groups within the SFX parish community. Fr Peter Kim, SJ initiated the group to meet on Fridays. A growing movement within the Catholic Church, "charismatic renewal" focuses on a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit, highlighting the many "charisms" that are given to Catholics through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.



Marian Devotion Group (MDG)

Marian Devotion Group (MDG), evolved from the Legion of Mary, first started during Fr Peter Kim's time. The primary objective of MDG is to promote a simple and filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by imitating her virtues and bringing more people to Jesus through her. MDG has a broad range of activities from conducting the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help every Saturday evening, sponsoring the morning Mass to rendering assistance to people in need, such as refugees and victims of natural disasters.

Parish Ministries

Sunday Fellowship

Our Sunday Coffee Mornings provide a place for parishioners to gather for breakfast and fellowship after morning Mass. We serve coffee, tea and light refreshments. It is a wonderful opportunity to invite and get to know families who are new to our parish.



Evangelization



The RCIA is a journey, set forth by the Universal Church, for adult inquirers (seekers of faith) who desire to know and follow Jesus Christ, as well as to become a member of the Catholic Church. The Rite prepares the adult inquirers with the aim to receive the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.



Parish Ministries

Faith Development

Religious Educa⁺tion

Religious Education was formed in 1966. The Jesuit Fathers in SFX Church had earlier foreseen the need for Religious Education. They observed that Catholic children sent to non-Catholic schools did not have the opportunity to receive faith education during school hours. The need for Sunday School became even greater when faith education during school hours was abolished.



Standard 3 students after receiving their First Holy Communion



Church tour for students in Standard 2



Confirmation group activity



Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (CIC)

To assist the candidates to know and grow in the Catholic faith and instill a sense of appreciation and love for himself/herself and God's creation.

Bible Knowledge (BK)

Bible Knowledge Ministry (BK) started in 1993 in response to dwindling number of students taking Bible Knowledge (BK) subject in SPM. Teachers in BK are volunteers with full-time jobs. They have a passion for the Word of God. Our teachers are well-connected to the Teachers Christian Fellowship as well as to a network of teachers who have taught BK.



Parish Ministries



FIRM Foundation Ministry

FIRM Foundation was set up in 1997 by Fr Larry Tan, SJ to catechise adult Catholics towards a deeper understanding of the Catholic Faith, assist parishioners to participate actively and meaningfully in the liturgy of the Church, as well as update them on the social teachings of the Church.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

CGS is a Montessori based approach to help children develop their personal spiritual relationship and fall in love with God. They gather in a specially prepared environment called the Atrium. CGS is guided to build a strong foundation on their faith.

The Atrium in SFX was set up in 2013. It is currently located on the 1st floor of Xavier Hall.

CGS is a community of faith. Parents are equipped to be primary catechists to support their children's spiritual development through a formation course, prior to their children entering the Atrium at age 3.

CGS also runs Silent Journeys for parents to experience the Atrium.



Parish Ministries

LIFE TEEN



After a brief hiatus, the Life Teen Ministry of the Church of St Francis Xavier, Petaling Jaya was officially re-launched on Feb 15, 2020.

The ministry is part of Life Teen Inc, an international Catholic ministry that strives to lead teens closer to Christ by providing resources and formation that encourage vibrant Eucharistic celebrations and opportunities for teens to grow in their faith.

The first of its kind in both Malaysia and Asia, the Life Teen Ministry in SFX, remains unique as it adapts and aligns its programmes and structure from the international office to suit the needs of the local parish teens while complementing the local Church’s vision and mission.

However, their plans to organize fortnightly gatherings (called “Life Nights”) as well as various other activities post-launch ground to a halt when the Malaysian government announced the Movement Control Order (MCO) on March 18, 2020

As face-to-face meetings were not permitted and are still not



encouraged, they have resorted to hosting meetings with the teens of the parish as well as their Core Team members online.

The ministry’s Chief Coordinator Ann-Marie Khor was adamant that ministry work could still be done amidst a pandemic, drawing inspiration from other youth ministries like Empowered Ministry in Kuching and the St Ignatius Church Youth Ministry who continued to actively reach out to teens through social media during this time.

“We may have to be physically distant, but thanks to social media and Zoom, we can still gather virtually,” she said.

And gather, they did!

Other than hosting a prayer box and virtual prayer gatherings, they have also organized virtual Life



Nights, which are now called Life Online sessions, aiming to equip the parish’s teens with sound knowledge of the Bible and the Church’s teachings.



This Life Teen Ministry has also hosted lepak sessions which they called “Come to the BOAT”. The figurative BOAT stands for the ministry’s aspirations: which is to be a place for Bonding where people can be Open, Accepting and True with one another.



Life Teen Ministry plans to continue its work virtually to lead teens closer to Christ.

Parish Ministries

Lifeline - Young Adults Ministry

Lifeline Young Adults Ministry is a Catholic ministry for young adults and students of private colleges in the Klang Valley, Malaysia. Founded in 1991, Lifeline has grown from a small group of people to an ever-growing and maturing community of young adults from various backgrounds, careers, and phases in their faith. Lifeline's mission is "Building a New Generation of Catholic Leaders".



CSS BM

CSS BM was set up in 2009 to reach out and facilitate parish community integration with parishioners whose first language is Bahasa Malaysia.



Yang Diutus

Yang Diutus is a youth ministry comprising working adult parishioners from East Malaysia.



Parish Ministries

SFX PMEIA

SFX PMEIA is a ministry under the parish Dialogue Commission established by Fr Lawrence Andrew, SJ in 2017 in accordance with the pledge at PMPC IV to focus on issues for the good of the Catholic Community for the next 10 years.

Religious dialogue is one of the eight realities of concern to be included. PMEIA collaborates with the Archdiocesan Ministry of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs, AMEIA for the benefit of the local community.

CSS UM

CSS UM was set up in 2006 to provide for undergraduates and post graduates who are studying in University Malaya, particularly those from east Malaysia.



Convo Mass 2019



SFX PMEIA core team members Christmas luncheon back in 2018



Visit to Sri Sithi Vinayagar Temple (hindu temple) during 2017 Deepavali celebration with our first PMEIA CC (Hans) and Fr Lawrence



A half day talk session by Eddy Lee in church on world religion



A visit to Gurdwara Sahib Petaling Jaya (Sikh temple) by SFX PMEIA team In June 2019



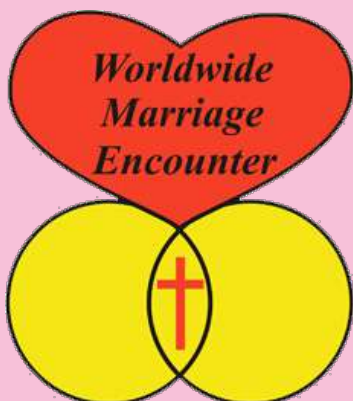
A talk session by Fr Sebastian Painadath, SJ entitled 'Towards A Culture of Transformative Harmony - An inter-religious dialogue and encounter' in Aug 2019



SFX PMEIA visited Baha'i Centre in Damansara Perdana where we had a good introduction about the Baha'i faith



Parish Ministries



Worldwide Marriage Encounter is considered the first marriage enrichment program offered to married couples. Marriage Encounter (ME) is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together... a time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations; and to do so openly and honestly with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their lives.



DID YOU KNOW...



Did you know that **Chapel Santa Maria Della Strada**, located on level 1 of SFX annex building, is the third chapel ever built within SFX PJ Church?

The first chapel built was Tony De Mello Chapel. By the mid 1990s, the second chapel, Arrupe Chapel, was built in the basement of the Jesuit Residence building to enable easier access by parishioners. The current Chapel Santa Maria Della Strada was blessed on 22 November 2009, and officially replaced Arrupe Chapel on 19 October 2011 when the latter was decommissioned.

Santa Maria Della Strada (Our Lady of the Way) is the patron saint of the **Society of Jesus**.



Couples for Christ (CFC)

Couples for Christ (CFC) is a Catholic movement which began in Philippines in 1981. By 2000, CFC was recognized by the Vatican as a private international association of the lay faithful of pontifical right. CFC ministry aims to spark renewal and to strengthen Christian family life.



SFX Social Communications Ministry Paves the Way Forward

'A Ministry at the Service of All'



and BEC. This is vital in planning, co-ordinating and communicating internal parish activities.

The second phase was to consolidate and update all communication channels within SFX and to make them accessible and content-rich. Since then, the ministry has updated SFX's website, SFX PJ mobile app, Facebook and Instagram. Social Communications also included the SFX photography team into our ministry as they are an integral part of communications.



Started in late 2018, Social Communications Ministry is one of the newest ministries to be established in SFX parish. We help communicate news, activities and Church teachings to the faithful through various digital platforms.

By mid-2019, the Ministry initiated a recruitment drive to form a core team that included media & PR practitioners, IT professionals, academicians, writers, editors and digital photography experts amongst parishioners.

The first phase of Social Communications' outreach was to connect with all BECs and parish ministries. As a ministry at the service of other ministries, we recognize the importance of establishing close rapport with each ministry



Parish Ministries

On Dec 3, 2019, we organized a mini-exhibition on Saint Francis Xavier, in collaboration with Religious Education (RE) Ministry. Working with RE's Form 4 students, our ministry set up a showcase on Saint Francis Xavier's journey and his important mission to the East.

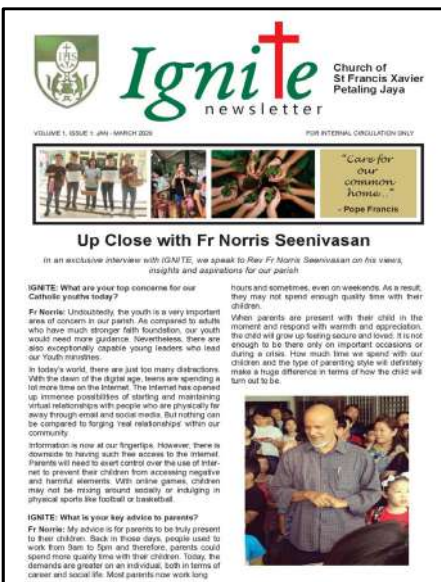
To keep parishioners informed of all activities at church, Social Communications Ministry also launched a parish newsletter in January 2020. **SFX IGNITE** is available in print (limited copies)

and online. **IGNITE** aims to nurture a deeper understanding of life as a Catholic. Each issue features latest events, updates and interesting stories about parish life.



Going forward, Social Communications Ministry plans to organize more education awareness talks, events, workshops and activities for BECs and parish ministries.

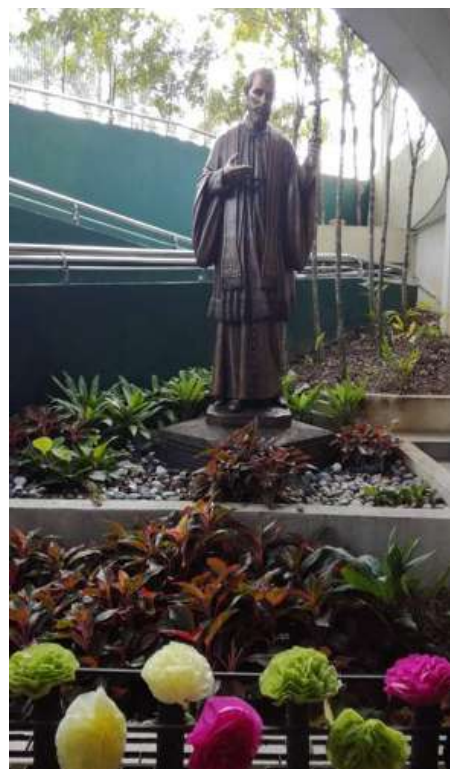
We hope to help nurture an engaged and vibrant parish community.



A Challenging Year

2020 proved to be a challenging year as all Masses were suspended due to the pandemic. When Masses were allowed, the Social Communications Ministry managed online registrations while working closely with the Hospitality Ministry and SFX Parish office.

The Church had to adopt innovative ways to communicate efficiently and effectively. A digital broadcast team was then set up to live stream Masses.



Catholic Marriage Preparation Course (CMPC)

Catholic Marriage Preparation Course (CMPC) was initiated by Fr Peter Kim. It was first introduced in 1981 as a 6-week prerequisite for Catholic couples who are planning to get married sacramentally in the Church.

Parish Ministries

Emmaus - Centre for Counselling & Social Development

Established in 1986, Emmaus counselling centre was the first Catholic counselling centre in Malaysia. Staffed and managed completely by volunteers who are trained in the theories and practice of counselling, the Emmaus centre ministers to people with personal and family problems.

DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that when the Church of St Francis Xavier was opened in 1961, a bell tower could not be built due to insufficient funds? Only during a major church renovation in 2006 was a bell installed atop the annex building.

On the church bell are inscribed the triple jubilee anniversaries of St Ignatius of Loyola, St Francis Xavier and St Peter Faber.



SFX Migrant Ministry



The SFX Migrant Ministry was initiated in February 2016 to provide support and assistance to migrants and refugees within the parish boundaries. The ministry also strives to deepen the parish community's awareness of their situation and nurture a sense of shared humanity and dignity. Currently, the ministry comprises 25 active members who are overseeing 24 families living in Petaling Jaya.



Parish Ministries

Prison Ministry

Serving Those Behind Bars

The SFX Prison Ministry was set up on 18 January 2019 to offer befriending and spiritual support services for prisoners and their families during the incarceration as well as their after-care needs. The ministry strives to provide counselling and fellowship services to help promote human and spiritual development. Since its formation in 2019, SFX Prisons Ministry has also organized fund raising and awareness campaigns to promote their cause to more parishioners to contribute their time and effort.



SFX Prison Ministry's 'Light A Candle' campaign. One thousand candles lit and numerous prayers offered



Rev. Fr Alvin Ho, SJ is Assistant Parish Priest of SFX Church

Fr Alvin is the third SFX parishioner to be ordained into the priestly order on 3rd December 2008, and the second SFX homegrown Jesuit priest. An educator by background, as well as a trained catechist, Fr Alvin is also the immediate past chairman of the Malaysian Catechetical Commission.



Established as a ministry since 1992, **REACH (Reaching out Education and Awareness to Society, Caring for the Hearing Impaired)** provides care and support to the disabled and the hearing impaired through faith development and formation. Its programs include identifying deaf Catholics in the Kuala Lumpur Archdiocese, recruiting volunteers and training interpreters, conducting Bible study, RCIA, and sign language classes, and training deaf catechists.

Parish Ministries

Golden Seniors Ministry

SFX Golden Seniors Ministry was formed on 7 May 2016 with its main aim to carry out activities for the benefit of the Golden Seniors (GS) in the SFX parish. SFX parishioners who are 60 years and above are eligible to join as members of this ministry.

A Christmas Dinner & Dance Party was organised by the Golden Seniors Ministry on 28 December 2019 and attended by 154 members. It was held at Loyola Hall from 7.00 pm to 11.00 pm. The popular band “The Nightbirds” was engaged to entertain the Golden Seniors with wonderful songs and hits from the 70s to present day. The Golden Seniors had a rocking and fun-filled night and the party was a roaring success.

Currently there are four groups under the GS ministry namely:

- Line Dance Group (2 Classes) with a total of 140 members
- Tai Chi Group with 21 active members
- SFX WCCM Meditation Group
- SFX GriefShare Group

Its activities include line dancing, Tai Chi classes, organising local and overseas pilgrimages as well as outreach programmes to old folks homes and the sick and elderly.

Besides this, weekly meditation sessions are now conducted online via Zoom. The Golden Seniors Ministry’s latest activity was the grief sharing which was undertaken by the GriefShare Group to help those who have lost a loved one to move on and find peace and happiness in their lives.



Parish Ministries



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The National Society of St Vincent de Paul, Conference of St Francis Xavier was established on 5 September 1969. SSVP celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. The society's main mission is to reach out to the poor and marginalised. They provide cash, medical and education aids to 45 families. One effective way to break the poverty chain is to empower their children through education. To this end, Rumah Pengajian Xavier, an education cum boarding home for secondary boys was set up in 2002. In November 2020, together with the Care for Creation Ministry, SSVP set up a Mobile Food Bank which distributed monthly rations to about 90 poor families and migrants.



SALT – Sisters Abiding in Light and Truth

SALT is the Women's Desk initiated in February 2016 to create a space where women may grow together in faith, receive support to build their inner strength, thus remaining as salt of the earth so that, with their unique and distinctive qualities, they may continue to respond to the needs which arise around them.



Parish Ministries

Filipina Service Committee (FSC)

Formerly known as the Ministry of Working Filipinas (MWF), Filipina Service Committee (FSC) was formed in 1989 at the initiation of Fr Jojo Fung to provide regular Sunday fellowship, legal assistance and counselling to Filipina migrant workers. On 16 August 1992, the ministry was reorganized by Fr Larry Tan. FSC's main aim is to gather and unite all working Filipinas and assist them with issues through the help of the Philippines Embassy.



Retreat with Brother Anthony Rogers at La Salle Hall



Gathering during Christmas



Bible study, sharing and reflections

Sports Ministry



SFX Badminton team at the Petaling District Games held on September 2019



SFX Table Tennis team during a friendly match with Royal Sungei Ujong Club (RSUC) in July 2019

Set up in 2005, the SFX Sports Ministry provides parishioners interaction and fellowship through sports activities within the parish and the Catholic community to foster personal and spiritual growth.

The Sport Ministry participated in the Petaling Inter-Church Games and the Archdiocesan Inter-Catholic Church Games in 2009.

However, there were no inter-district church games

after that. This was due to an incident at the Archdiocesan Games. The SFX Sports Ministry was disbanded as a result.

Nevertheless, the SFX table tennis and badminton teams continued with their activities. Until recently, some members got together and proposed to Father Norris to revive SFX Sports Ministry and the Petaling District Games.

Retracing our Roots: How BECs Grew Into A Vibrant Community

“Basic Ecclesial Communities” (BECs) were formed in 1976 as a core priority of the renewal of the Catholic Church in Peninsular Malaysia, in line with the vision and reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) in SFX was first initiated by the late Fr Peter Kim. Under the first phase of NIP (New Image of the Parish) in 1981, BECs started in every geographical location within the parish perimeter. At that time, parishioners had to adjust to participating in the Sacraments and discard the age-old culture of passive involvement. Through the numerous gatherings, fellowships and Home Eucharists, members of the community grew to know one another and began to feel comfortable enough to start practicing their faith in small groups.

By 1988, 16 BECs and 75 parish groups were formed.

The Birth of BECs

The **Section 12 BEC Group** first started in 1974. The group was then called the Mission Home Group before it evolved into BEC. Another early parish community group was Section 20 Petaling Barat which conducted its first prayer meeting in October 1977. The prayer group was named Sacred Heart Prayer Group Section 20. By the early 1980's, the group thrived as a BEC.

Section 21/SS2 BEC community started in 1981 with a small group of families. Activities centred around Home Eucharists, giving communion to the sick and the elderly, visiting the poor, prayers for the deceased, reflection, Easter gathering, and picnics.

Through the pastoral direction of Fr. Peter Kim, Section 14 BEC also started in 1981 and later by 1983, was divided into two sections 14A and 14B respectively.

Section 17C/19 was also one of the pioneer BECs formed in early 1980's with migrant-settlers mainly from Perak. It had 4 groups namely St. Anne, St. Jude, St. Ignatius, St. Patrick (AJIP), each of which had at least 4 active core members from 6 participating families out of 12 Catholic households.

Section 5 BEC was established with Wilfred Vias as its first BEC head.

Section 10 BEC, one of the smallest in Petaling Jaya, started in September 1980 when the first gathering was made to rally towards Parish Renewal, while Section 11 BEC flourished through many of its Bible study sessions and social gatherings.

The PJ Damansara BEC comprising SS20, SS21 and SS22 was formally launched on 18th February 1986 with a Home Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Raju.



BECs

Vision of Aggiornamento

In August 1976, one hundred and twenty six members of the Peninsular Malaysia clergy gathered in College General Penang to map out the response of the Local Church to the call of Vatican Council II. Archbishop Dominic Vendargon of Kuala Lumpur, Bishop Gregory Yong of Penang and Bishop James Chan of Melaka-Johor convened the Aggiornamento (Renewal).

The purpose of the Aggiornamento was for the Clergy of Peninsular Malaysia to gain an insight into the teachings of the Council and to identify some directions for the future.

Though unprecedented at that time, the laity in all the parishes undertook the various tasks usually carried out by the priests who were away at that time. The period was also meant to serve as a wake-up call for the laity to understand the realities of their faith, deepen their Christian commitment and love of Jesus.

As a result of the one-month long study and reflection during the Aggiornamento 1976, the building of the Basic Christian Communities was identified as the Core Need, while the four Related Needs were listed as Unity, Formation, Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue and Integral Human Development.

The Core Need:
Building of Christ-Centred Communities

Related Needs:

- Unity among Bishops, priests, religious and laity in all fields
- Formation of the People of God, especially the Laity
- Promoting Ecumenism with other Christians and Dialogue with People of Other Faiths
- Integral Human Development of the Poor

Source: SFX Silver Jubilee 1987

1976 - Aggiornamento		
CORE NEED BEC As a result of the one-month long study and reflections, the Building of Basic Christian Communities was identified as the Core Need.	FOUR RELATED NEEDS 1. Unity 2. Formation 3. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue 4. Integral Human Development	IMPLEMENTATION These options were implemented at the diocesan and parish levels through the New Image of the Parish (NIP) Programme initially initiated by the Better World Movement.
1986 – Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Convention 1		
CORE NEED BEC Continue to build Christ-centred Basic Ecclesial Communities.	ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN ADDED 1. Unity 2. Formation 3. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue 4. Integral Human Development 5. Youth	IMPLEMENTATION These options were implemented at the diocesan and parish levels through the Parish Renewal Experience (PRE).
1996 – Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Convention 2		
CORE NEED → FUNDAMENTAL OPTION - BEC So many Catholics have found joy, fellowship and caring in such communities and the grace to reach out to our less fortunate sisters and brothers in compassion. The people of God have truly been nurtured in their human and spiritual lives.	TWO MORE AREAS OF CONCERN ADDED 1. Unity 2. Formation 3. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue 4. Integral Human Development 5. Youth 6. Families 7. Social Communications	IMPLEMENTATION These areas of concern were implemented at the diocesan and parish levels through the New Way of Being Church.
2006 – Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Convention 3		
BASIC OPTION – BEC Our basic option as Church is to build Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) that reflect our primary communion as People of God.	PASTORAL PRIORITIES 1. Unity 2. Formation 3. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue 4. Integral Human Development 5. Youth 6. Family 7. Social Communications	IMPLEMENTATION Consolidation of efforts in the implementation of the basic option and the pastoral priorities. Six categories were proposed to accomplish this: 1. Renewing Faith, Re-evangelisation, Social Conscientisation 2. Systematic Review 3. Mechanism for Dialogue, Consultation and Feedback 4. Training and Formation 5. Pastoral care for Priority Groups 6. Recommitment and Support of the Clergy
2016 – Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Convention 4		
PARADIGM SHIFT Integral Evangelisation Becoming a listening, discerning and prophetic Church.	PASTORAL PRIORITIES 1. BEC 2. Unity 3. Formation 4. Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue 5. Integral Human Development 6. Youth 7. Families 8. Social Communications	IMPLEMENTATION Be creative, inclusive and bridge-building in and through: 1. Witness of life 2. Service to humanity 3. Inter-religious dialogue 4. Explicit Gospel proclamation 5. Prayer, liturgy and sacraments



A Journey of Faith

SFX Ignite spoke to Mrs Rita Vias on her fondest memories as a long-time parishioner and pioneer BEC member at SFX PJ

The following are excerpts from the interview.

What are your fondest memories of SFX PJ?

I remember the baptism of my daughter which was very beautifully done. I also have very fond memories of Fr Edmund Sullivan, whom most of us considered as a living saint. In fact, at his funeral, I remember the church was filled to the brim with people in full suits as well as chaps in shady, not so clean t-shirts with rubber slippers. There was a wide range of people whom he had left an impact. Indeed, this church has been blessed by God and Mother Mary. We also have very outstanding parish priests and assistants. In my opinion, the late Fr Peter Kim must be credited for cleaning up the church building.

Another memory that I have is of my father-in-law. Whenever there was a maintenance issue or if a tile was broken on the roof, my father-in-law would be the first to be up there fixing it as a builder, while my mother-in-law would help at the altar. My husband was an active BEC CC (Chief Coordinator), and my daughter and I have been lectors and commentators. In other words, Saint Francis Xavier made sure that our family was well-connected with his church.

In your view, what are some of the key milestones of our parish?

The initiation of the BECs should definitely be counted as one of the key milestones for this parish. My husband was the first CC for BEC Section 5. At that time, nobody knew what BEC was about and the heavy responsibilities that came with it.

Thankfully, we had great support from our BEC members. I remember going from house-to-house and inviting those from our neighbourhood to join us. The BEC started as a gathering for group prayers. These prayer sessions helped us to get to know one another. And I think we have grown in that.

BEC helps us to think outside and above our inner family and also, to understand that there are other people with feeling and needs. This is the social

aspect of BECs. Spiritually, BEC helped us see Christ in one another. We are not seeing who is rich or poor, who is black and who is brown, but we are seeing Christ. Christ comes in charity, Christ comes in love, and Christ comes in mercy.



How do you think we have grown as a parish community?

We have grown in numbers and in the variety of people who are coming here. I know there are people who come here from other parishes because they appreciate our church organization, especially the homilies. We also have good car parks, and we have to thank our Jesuit Fathers for that.

What would you like to see improve in our Church?

We need to make people feel welcome in our parish. I would like to see people treating each and everyone the same. We are all equal in God's eyes. We have to develop the sense that in this place, as in our BECs, we are all Children of God, no matter what. We also need to get each and every ministry to be aware of their contribution to the parish and their connection with the services of God.

Well-wishes on SFX PJ Diamond Jubilee celebration.

I would like to thank the Lord for giving us a parish which never had to close down without a priest. I would also like to thank God for our Communion Ministers (extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion), hospitality ministers as well as each and every ministry and parish office personnel down to the cleaners.

**BEC Section 10
St Peter and St Paul**



**Father's Day Back to Nature
Fancy Dress Fellowship**



Carolling



**Prayer cum fellowship with
Senior Citizens 2019**



BEC St Francis of Assisi



**Celebrating SFX Family
Day with friends**

BEC St Jude



**BEC Section 5
The Good
Shepherd**



BEC Pilgrimage to Nilai



BEC Pilgrimage to Medan

BEC Rosary



St John BEC SS2

Our Journey As A Welcoming, Extended Family Continues ...



We began our communitarian journey in 1981 as Zone SS2 and as a BEC in 1986. Our children have grown up and now have their own families. We have come a long way and it is no wonder that we are very much a part of one another's life. Growing in Faith together and living out our Faith together accompanied by our Risen Lord is a continuing journey of Hope and Love for the larger community in our midst.

The PMPC IV in 2016 was a clarion call for us to re-look at our BECs and the concept of the parish as "A Communion of Communities". We continued with our monthly Rosary/Reflection gatherings but not our annual carolling since becoming an ageing community. In recent years however, young families moved into the neighbourhood. We decided to organize a Christmas gathering with carolling in December 2016 and that was the start of Sunday Afternoon Fellowship Gatherings several times a year including Easter, Father's Day, Merdeka Day, Christmas and Chinese New Year which were well attended by seniors and young adults. From 2018, the young adults organised Sunday Afternoon Carolling/Christmas Gathering at two homes facilitating the participation of seniors and children. They enjoyed the carolling and the retelling of the Nativity of Jesus through Biblical passages. Six students of the CSSUM participated in 2019, joining us for the first time.



SYNC-ers' and friends' hike to Wawasan Puchong
30 Aug 2020

Staying United

Even with more fellowship gatherings, our members were still shy in opening up and sharing with one another during monthly reflections. Recognising that sharing of life and faith experience with one another is vital for growth in personal and communitarian faith, more opportunities were organized for bonding and growth in friendship. In 2019, we had outings for seniors during weekdays and for everyone on weekends. There were six lunch outings to Bread of Life Corner at the Ecumenical Centre, CCM and two to Klang for the seniors. The seniors and young adults went to KLPac for Euphrasia the Musical and to Nilai for the pilgrimage to St Theresa Church.

Our Single Young and Catholic Group (SYNC-ers) have been participating actively in our gatherings and weekend outings. There is a strong sense of mutual support and growth in faith among the seniors and the younger members. We have also invited our young sisters and brothers from Sarawak and Sabah to our Fellowship Gatherings for them to experience a home away from home. The SYNC-ers go on hikes and birthday outings with their friends from the parish and it is heartening to see them bonding as friends. Being a welcoming community is one of our hallmarks.



BEC Home Eucharist on Wednesday 21st August 2019

Reaching Out

Our BEC also does outreach to the needy and show concern for environmental protection. We have been doing old newspaper collection for recycling for many years. The three R's of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are very much part of our daily life, especially single-use plastic. The funds from the sale of old newspapers are used in financial assistance to needy families.

BECs

In 2017 and 2018, four members of our BEC stepped up in outreach by giving twice-weekly English lessons to children and adults of the Chin Community of our Parish. The teachers have developed a bond with the children and their parents and continue to keep in touch and participate in their community celebrations. We began participating in another fund raiser in 2017- the baking and sale of Christmas cakes for the Assunta Children Society and our BEC outreach which is lovingly coordinated by Teresa Chung our Social Concern Coordinator. The members also look forward to the annual cake-wrapping, fellowship and lunch.

The first MCO in 2020 gave us a jolt and by the grace of God we rose to the challenge and organized weekly Rosary small group gatherings, first on video call then on Zoom. We began in May 2020 and we had our 50th gathering on Saturday 24 April 2021. We have three Rosary Groups praying consecutively from 2pm to 5pm, and another group at 8:30pm. Now we also do the monthly Reflection Paper and ponder over messages from Pope Francis and Archbishop Julian.

Occasionally the afternoon groups get together for a combined gathering. Meeting weekly has brought the members closer together and the smaller groups have allowed better interaction and sharing among members. The four Rosary Groups, the 2pm, 3pm, 4pm and 8:30pm Groups are facilitated by our Chief Coordinator Siew Bee and Core Team members Rachel Chin, Yvonne Yap, Margaret Spencer, Aggie Tan, Joe Xavior and Evan Halim.

The virtual gatherings were made possible by the patience and tenacity of two young adults, our SYNC Coordinator Rachel and our CTO Evan in assisting the seniors manage video calls and soon after, Zoom. Their efforts were awesome. They are also part of the Tech Team co-organizing the monthly Interfaith Talks with SFX PMEIA.

Understanding the basic tenets and practice of the major Faith Traditions would help our BEC members in reaching out and building bridges in our multi-faith and multi-ethnic neighbourhood, an important step in fostering mutual understanding and respect to strengthen bonds of unity among Malaysians. Eddy Lee, the Chief Coordinator of SFX PMEIA and a lecturer in Comparative Studies of World Religions had so far given us an overview of Buddhism, Chinese Traditional Beliefs, Taoism, Confucianism, Hinduism, History of Christianity and Christianity in

Malaysia. This year we will be further enlightened by the practitioners of the various Faith Traditions. We also invite members of the other BECs of the Parish, the PMEIA's of Parishes nearby, young adults from Sabah and Sarawak, and also friends and neighbours from various Faith Communities to participate in our learning sessions.

Growing As A Family

Looking at our BEC as an extended family, we take care of everyone, young and old. At the same time we see the needs of the larger community of which we are a part of, reflect on these issues in the light of the Word of God and respond positively for common good. Christ is the centre of our community life as BEC and being actively engaged as ordinary citizens in writing a new narrative for our beloved nation would be an important way of Believing, Living and Giving Hope to everyone.



Carolling with CSSUM students, Sunday 22 Dec '19

BEC St Jude & BEC St Luke



BECs



BEC Section 14 Sacred Heart



BEC St Ignatius of Loyola trip to Ho Chi Minh in June 2015

BEC Caroling with Chin community at Peter Claver House - December 2019



BECs

*St Anne BEC
Pilgrimage Tour to Bangkok
for Pope Francis' Visit*

20th to 23rd November 2019



Our group was made up of 35 pilgrims, including 3 seniors over the age of 80, with one senior on a wheelchair. We were a very determined and brave lot, putting our faith in our Lord to protect us.

It was wonderful to see that all of us were not only very cooperative, but we also helped each other along like a family.

Prior to the main evening event of the Pope's Mass, we visited the Assumption Cathedral, various Churches, the Grand Palace, Temples, Floating Market, 3D Art In Paradise, and enjoyed a buffet dinner cruise in Chaopharaya.

During our daily coach trips, we referred to our special "BEC Prayer Booklet" to recite our prayers and sing hymns.

We arrived home safely, with lots of happy memories. For many, it was a dream come true of seeing the Pope and making many good friends along the way.

To sum it up... "it was truly a very spirit-filled, fun and fruitful pilgrimage trip to Bangkok!"



Our group's allocated seats in the National Stadium (Zone FN-14)



We were well prepared with a name tag, cap, Malaysia flag & a prayer book



Our "Papal Mass" pass to enter the Stadium

BECs



BEC St Patrick



Visiting Church of Divine Mercy in Penang (2016)

Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, Penang (2017)



Carl's Soup Kitchen at the Cathedral of St John (2016)

BEC St Michael



BEC Fellowship after Reflection Session (2019)



BEC Post-Rosary



BEC Home Mass



BEC Section 20A - St Ambrose

21 September 2019 - Pilgrimage to St Theresa Church, Nilai, NS



15 December 2018 – Outreach to Mega Nursing Home



24 July 2019 – Celebration of Home Eucharist



Reaching out with love. Spreading Christmas cheer and joy



Acknowledgements

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